

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

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P R 141542Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3414

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3966

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH SOARES

REF: LISBON 3936 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE HAD SEEN SOARES QUIETLY OVER THE WEEKEND TO GET HIS VIEWS ON SITUATION. HE FOUND SOARES (AS USUAL) UNCLEAR ON ANY FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION FOR SOCIALISTS. ACCORDING TO SOARES ALTERNATIVES WERE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, OR COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. HE FELT FORMER WAS MORE LIKELY. ACCORDING TO SOARES IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER PPD STAYS IN OR LEAVES GOVERNMENT.

2. ASKED HOW EUROPEANS MIGHT BE HELPFUL, BRITISH AMBASSADOR RECEIVED MUCH THE SAME PITCH WE DID. SOARES SUGGESTED TAKING TOUGHTER LINE WITH SOVIETS, INCLUDING BOYCOTTING CSCE. HE ALSO SUGGESTED APPEARANCE OF NATO UNITS OFF PORTUGUESE COAST, A SUGGESTION WHICH BTITISH AMBASSADOR VETOED ON THE SPOT. APPARENTLY SOARES DID NOT MENTION APPROACH TO COSTA GOMES TO BRITISH, BUT HE DID ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO TAKE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO U.K.

3. SOARES SAID EUROPEANS SHOULD MAKE AID CONDITIONAL ON GOP FOLLOWING DEMOCRATIC PATH. THIS CAUSED U.K. AMBASSADOR TO RAISE HIS EYEBROWS, SINCE ONLY 24 HOURS EARLIER SOARES HAD TOLD ANOTHER VISITOR THAT EUROPEANS SHOULD CONTINUE
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WITH AID. BUT THEN, CONSISTENCY HAS NEVER BEEN SOARES'S

STRONG SUIT.

4. COMMENT: SOARES'S PERFORMANCE WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR
WAS FAIRLY TYPICAL. HE STILL LOOKS PRIMARILY TO EUROPEANS
TO HELP HIM, BEFORE PLANNING CONCRETE STEPS HE CAN TAKE
HERE.
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